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REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 1-7 are allowed, and claims 18-26 would be allowable if claim 18 were rewritten in independent form. Claim 18 has been so rewritten and is now in condition for allowance, as are claims 19-26 dependent thereon. Also in the Office Action, claims 8-17, 27, and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 primarily on the basis of a combination of VandenBerge et al. (4,760,503) in view of Sakuma (5,117,337).

By this Amendment, claim 8 has been amended to more clearly define the invention and, in particular, the unique mounting arrangement of the cover to the mirror frame, in which assembly is greatly facilitated and yet the cover is securely held to the mirror frame. This is accomplished by a closed cylindrical socket at one end of the frame which receives one of the pivot axles of the cover and a snap-in open socket at the other edge of the frame which receives the remaining pivot axle. The VandenBerge et al. patent discloses two open sockets which do not positively capture at least one end of the cover as does the invention defined by the remaining claims 8-12, 16-17, and 27-28.

The benefit of having one enclosed cylindrical socket is the ease of indexing of the cover to the mirror frame during assembly, since the insertion of the first pivot axle into the enclosed socket aligns the cover to the frame and provides a fixed reference point, such that the opposite end can then be easily snapped into the open socket. The VandenBerge disclosure does not provide this beneficial structure and the Sakuma patent requires the alignment of cover members 19 precisely with the apertures 13A in the mirror frame prior to insertion of pivot pins 21, thereby providing a difficult and complicated mounting arrangement for pivoting the cover to the mirror frame. Further, pins 21 can loosen from the frame and cause the pivot mounting of the cover to the frame to fail. The use of an enclosed socket at one end and a snap-in socket at the other end prevents any such problems. Some of the dependent claims were also rejected on the combination of VandenBerge and Sakuma with Dowd et al., however, the failure of the primary references to teach the specific enclosed and open socket mounting arrangement and structure defined by amended independent claims 8 and 16 and original claim 27. The addition of Dowd et

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al. would not suggested the covered and framed mounting arrangement as defined by these claims.

The enclosed socket, as defined by the claims currently submitted, is not a familiar element nor would the combination with an open socket, as specifically defined in these claims, yield no more than predictable results and, as a result, would not be obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention under the recent KSR Supreme Court decision (*KSR International Co. v. Teleflex Inc.*, 127 S. Ct. 1727 (2007)).

Accordingly, it is submitted that claims 8-12, 16, and 17, as amended herewith, define patentable subject matter, as do claims 27 and 28. By this Amendment, it is submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully solicited.

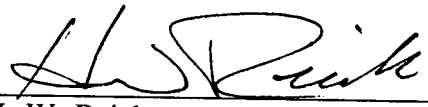
Respectfully submitted,

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